

DESIRED OUTCOME

Implementation of the Conservation Agreement and Strategy will initiate management actions that should provide for the continued existence and recovery of Virgin spinedace. We anticipate that the range of the species will be increased to occupy 80% of its historic habitat (Figure 2). The most significant threat to the species has been identified as dewatered-historic habitat (60 km or 37 mi). This threat will be significantly reduced by providing flows in approximately 39 km (24 mi) of stream channel. We anticipate that this single action will greatly enhance current populations of Virgin spinedace by reducing habitat and population fragmentation, enhancing stream productivity, enhancing water quality, and enhancing the riparian communities. Actions such as non-indigenous fish management and habitat improvement should provide additional benefits by removing negative fish interactions and enhancing impacted habitats.